

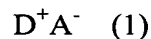
Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A negative-working photosensitive composition comprising:

- (A) an infrared absorber,
- (B) an organic boron compound which has a function as a polymerization initiator when used in combination with the infrared absorber (A),
- (C) an onium salt, and
- (D) a compound having a polymerizable unsaturated group.

2. (currently amended) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein the infrared absorber (A) is a near infrared absorbing cationic dye represented by the following formula (1):



wherein

D^+ represents a cationic dye having an absorption in a near infrared range, and

A^- represents an anion.

3. (currently amended) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic boron compound (B) is an ammonium salt of a quaternary boron anion represented by the following formula (2):

[Chemical Formula 1]



wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkaryl group, an allyl group, an aralkyl group, an alkenyl group, an

alkynyl group, an alicyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group,

at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and

R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an allyl group, an alkaryl group, an aralkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alicyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group.

4. (currently amended) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein the onium salt (C) is obtained by combining an onium salt having S^+ in the molecule with an onium salt having I^+ in the molecule.

5. (currently amended) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein the onium salt (C) has at least two onium ion atoms in a molecule.

6. (currently amended) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 5, wherein the onium ion atoms of the onium salt (C) are S^+ and I^+ .

7. (currently amended) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, wherein the onium salt (C) has an aromatic ring having a substituent.

8. (currently amended) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 1, which further contains a binder resin (E).

9. (currently amended) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 8, wherein the binder resin (E) is an alkali-soluble resin.

10. (currently amended) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 8, wherein the binder resin (E) comprises a polymer having an aromatic carboxyl group.

11. (currently amended) A negative-working photosensitive lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a support and a photosensitive layer containing the a negative-working photosensitive composition according to any one of claims 1 to 10 formed on the support, said negative-working photosensitive composition comprising

(A) an infrared absorber,

(B) an organic boron compound which has a function as a polymerization initiator when used in combination with the infrared absorber (A),

(C) an onium salt, and

(D) a compound having a polymerizable unsaturated group.

12. (new) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 11, wherein the infrared absorber (A) is a near infrared absorbing cationic dye represented by the following formula (1):

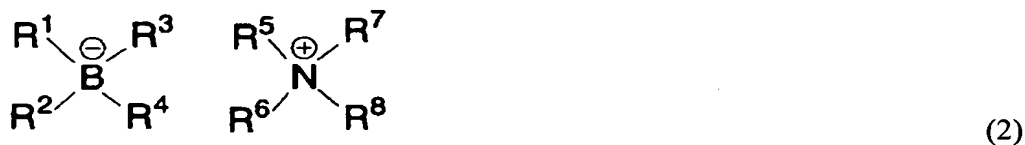


wherein

D^+ represents a cationic dye having an absorption in a near infrared range, and

A^- represents an anion.

13. (new) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 11, wherein the organic boron compound (B) is an ammonium salt of a quaternary boron anion represented by the following formula (2):
[Chemical Formula 1]



wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkaryl group, an allyl group, an aralkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alicyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group,

at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and

R^5 , R^6 , R^7 and R^8 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an allyl group, an alkaryl group, an aralkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alicyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group.

14. (new) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 11, wherein the onium salt (C) is obtained by combining an onium salt having S^+ in the molecule with an onium salt having I^+ in the molecule.

15. (new) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 11, wherein the onium salt (C) has at least two onium ion atoms in a molecule.

16. (new) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 11, wherein the onium ion atoms of the onium salt (C) are S^+ and I^+ .

17. (new) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 11, wherein the onium salt (C) has an aromatic ring having a substituent.

18. (new) The negative-working photosensitive composition according to claim 11, which further contains a binder resin (E).

19. (new) A method of forming a lithographic printing plate comprising:
(A) imagewise exposing the element of Claim 11 to infrared radiation, to form exposed and non-exposed regions in the photosensitive layer, and

(B) developing the imaged elements to remove the non-exposed regions only.